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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

OATES

Atty. Ref.: 36-1395

Serial No. Unknown

Group:

National Phase of PCT/GB99/02449

Filed: January 11, 2001

Examiner:

For: **DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
OPTIMISING CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS OF A
PHYSICAL SYSTEM**

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January 11, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS (AS ON AMENDED SHEETS)

Claim 3, lines 1 and 2, delete "or claim 2".

Claim 4, lines 1 and 2, delete "any preceding claim" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 7, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 3" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 10, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 9" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 12, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 9" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 14, lines 1 and 2, delete "or claim 13".

Claim 16, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 12 to 15" and insert
-- claim 12 --.

Claim 17, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 9" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 20, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 17 to 19" and insert
-- claim 17 --.